

[computer] processor readable [program] code [means] for causing a computer to invite the available invitees to attend at the requested time interval using the electronic mail address stored in the profile for each invitee, and
automatically updating the invitee's profile based on the invitee's response to the invitation.

REMARKS

The Office Action has been reviewed and, in view of the following comments, reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims pending in the application are respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hotaling *et al.*

The specification has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. Claims 1 and 5-7 have been amended to more clearly recite various features of the present invention. Claims 1-16 are currently pending in this application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,124,912 to Hotaling *et al.* ("Hotaling"). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons which follow.

Hotaling discloses a meeting management device of a computer system which determines a meeting date and time for a specified group of invitees within a set of specified time parameters. A subset of the invitees are designated as critical along with any specified pieces of equipment and desired meeting sites. Remote from personal calendars of the invitees, the device compares available dates and times of each critical invitee with each other and that of any critical

pieces of equipment and meeting sites. The comparison determines common available dates and times in which to schedule the meeting. *See Hotaling*, abstract.

Once a meeting has be “scheduled”, *i.e.*, a tentative meeting time selected, Hotaling teaches that an electronic mail invitation may be sent to each invitee. “The sending of an invitee’s invitation automatically updates the public templa[t]e field of his schedule record if he is a participant of the Meeting Management service 19 and is critical to this meeting and thus completes the cycle of Meeting Management 19.” *Id.* at col. 10, ll. 22-27. However, the invitee must personally update his private template to reflect his actual acceptance or non-acceptance of the scheduling invitation, and respond to the meeting coordinator outside of the Meeting Management service to truly *schedule* the meeting in his personal calendar. *See id.* at col. 10, ll. 28-68.

Contrasted to the above, the present independent claims provide that a meeting is *scheduled* using an electronic mail invitation, and an invitee’s profile is automatically updated *based on* the invitee’s response to the electronic mail invitation. Hotaling does not teach or suggest such an automated scheduling approach. Thus, under the claims of the present invention, an invitee may decline a meeting at the proposed time even though it is available. Whereas in Hotaling, the invitee’s schedule is updated without that invitee’s prior acceptance or approval.

It is well established that to anticipate a claim, a reference must teach every element of the claim. *Verdegaal Bros. V. Onion Oil Co. of Cal.*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicants respectfully submit that the meeting management device taught by Hotaling does not include all of Applicants’ claimed elements. For example, Hotaling does not teach *scheduling* a meeting using electronic mail invitation or automatically updating an invitee’s profile *based on* their response to the invitation. As such, it is submitted that Hotaling does not teach each and every element of the independent claims. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and notification thereof is respectfully requested. Should any outstanding issues remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 955-1894.

It is believed that no additional fees are required. However, in the event that any additional fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge all required fees to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,
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